Please add the following new claims:

--11. (New) A perforated nonwoven fabric, comprising:

interlaced continuous microfiber filaments having a titer in a range of 0.05 to 0.40 dtex, the microfiber filaments being composed of at least two thermoplastic polymers having different hydrophobicity and having one of a pie filament cross-section and a hollow pie filament cross-section, from which split filaments have been released, perforations being clearly formed and being free of split-fiber filaments;

wherein the perforated nonwoven fabric has a mass per unit area of 8 to 17 g/m^2.

12. (New) The perforated nonwoven fabric according to claim 11, wherein the perforations are evenly spaced and have an individual-hole area of 0.01 to 0.60 cm^2.

13. (New) The perforated nonwoven fabric according to claim 11, wherein a ratio between a maximum distance from points on a nonwoven surface to a next perforation and a minimum distance is 1:1 to 2:1.

14. (New) The perforated nonwoven fabric according to claim 11, wherein an open hole area is 8 to 40%.

15. (New) The perforated nonwoven fabric according to claim 11, wherein the microfiber filaments include polyolefin and polyester filaments in a weight ratio in a range of 20:80 to 80:20.

16. (New) The perforated nonwoven fabric according to claim 11, wherein the perforated nonwoven fabric is impregnated with 0 to 0.60% by weight in relation to a nonwoven weight of at least one surface-active agent.

17. (New) The perforated nonwoven fabric according to claim 11, wherein a strike through value of after one minute is less than three seconds, a rewet value is less than 0.59 and a tensile strength in a longitudinal direction is at least 30N/5 cm.

18. (New) A method for producing a perforated nonwoven fabric, comprising the steps of:

laying up one of splittable pie and splittable hollow pie continuous fibers, a cross-section of which having at least two different thermoplastic polymers having different hydrophobocity in an alternating cake-piece arrangement to form a nonwoven fabric;

after the laying up step, splitting and entangling the split filaments by high-pressure water jets to form interlaced microfiber filaments; and

after the splitting and entangling step, perforating the nonwoven fabric using high-pressure water jets.

19. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the perforating step is performed on hydroextraction and hole-forming cylinders having elevations on a surface thereof.

20. (New) A hygiene product, comprising:

a topsheet having a perforated nonwoven fabric including interlaced continuous microfiber filaments having a titer in a range of 0.05 to 0.40 dtex, the microfiber filaments being composed of at least two thermoplastic polymers having different hydrophobicity and having one of a pie filament cross-section and a hollow pie filament cross-section, from which split filaments have been released, perforations being clearly formed and being free of split-fiber filaments;

wherein the perforated nonwoven fabric has a mass per unit area of 8 to 17 g/m^2.

21. (New) The hygiene product according to claim 20, wherein the hygiene product includes at least one of a diaper and a sanitary napkin.

22. (New) The hygiene product according to claim 20, wherein the perforations are evenly spaced and have an individual-hole area of 0.01 to 0.60 cm^2.

23. (New) The hygiene product according to claim 20, wherein a ratio between a maximum distance from points on a nonwoven surface to a next perforation and a minimum distance is 1:1 to 2:1.